

STARS AND STRIPES

Monday, March 24, 2003

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

Mother sheds light on soldier held in attack on 101st

BY JOE BIESK

The Associated Press

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. — When Sgt. Asan Akbar was taken into custody on suspicion of killing a fellow serviceman with a grenade, an Army spokesman said he may have acted out of resentment. But where such bitterness may have come from remains a mystery.

The deadly attack at a 101st Airborne Division brigade command center in Kuwait also wounded 15 other soldiers Sunday, three seriously.

Akbar had reportedly told his mother he feared persecution because he is a Muslim and had been reprimanded recently for insubordination.

The woman who said she is Akbar's mother, Quran Bilal, told The Tennessean of Nashville that she was concerned her son might have been accused because he is a Muslim. She said he was not allowed to participate in the first Gulf War because of his religion.

"He said, 'Mama, when I get over there I have the feeling they are going to arrest me just because of the name that I have carried,'" Bilal, of Baton Rouge, La., told the newspaper for a story published in Monday's editions.

Akbar, of the 101st's 326th Engineer Battalion, was in custody, said George Heath, a civilian spokesman at Fort Campbell. Heath said Akbar had not yet been charged with a crime Monday but was the only person being questioned in the attack.

Heath said Akbar should eventually come back to Fort Campbell, though military officials could convene a court-martial in Kuwait.

He said he was not sure what kind of penalty Akbar could face.

Jim Lacey, a correspondent for Time magazine, told CNN that military criminal investigators said Akbar was recently reprimanded for insubordination and was told he would not join his unit's push into Iraq. Heath also said Akbar had been having "an attitude problem."

The motive of the attack "most likely was resentment," said Max Blumenfeld, another Army spokesman.

The Los Angeles Times reported in Monday's editions that soldiers said they overheard Akbar declare: "You guys are coming into our countries and you're going to rape our women and kill our children."

A neighbor in Akbar's apartment complex outside Fort Campbell in Clarksville, Tenn., said Akbar was a devout Muslim. Willie Shamell Jr. said he thought racial discrimination had affected Akbar's military career. Akbar is black.

"I know he didn't like his unit that much," Shamell told The Tennessean. "He didn't get promoted. I had asked him how that had worked. A lot of people feel that [discrimination] is there at Fort Campbell."

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Firefighters driven off by fighting



AP

A U.S. Marine from the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force stands guard at a burning oil well at the Rumaila oil fields Sunday in Iraq. Several oil wells have been set ablaze by retreating Iraqi troops in the Rumaila area, the second largest offshore oil field in the country. Fighting in the area has driven out civilian firefighters trying to put out the oil well blazes.

Loved ones learn of GIs' abduction

BY ROXANA HEGEMAN

The Associated Press

DERBY, Kan. — The half brother of a Kansas soldier held captive in Iraq said he wants the United States to finish the war "as fast as possible" so his brother can come home.

The family of 23-year-old Pfc. Patrick Miller said he was one of five prisoners of war seen Sunday answering questions on Iraqi television. There also was footage of at least four bodies.

The soldier's half brother, Thomas Hershberger, 27, said his mother spoke to Miller's wife Sunday. She had received confirmation from the military that Miller was being held by the Iraqis, he said.

"She is not doing the best right now," he said of his mother, who lives in New Mexico. "I haven't had a con-

versation with her without her crying."

Also Sunday, the mother of another captured soldier offered a plea to President Bush. "Please do something for my son," Anecita Hudson said of Army Spc. Joseph Hudson, 23, of Alamogordo, N.M.

Members of another family told NBC's "Today" show Monday that the only woman among the captives seen on Iraqi video was their loved one, Army Spc. Shoshawna Johnson. They said she was the daughter of a military man and grew up near Fort Bliss in Texas.

"I can't imagine what she's going through," said a cousin, Tracy Thorn.

"I can't begin to imagine what she's feeling. She looks scared."

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Latest developments

■ Coalition planes targeted Republican Guard forces just south of Baghdad in perhaps the largest assault to date on Saddam Hussein's highly trained troops, U.S. officials said.

■ Gen. Tommy Franks said Saddam's regime is weakened but still issuing orders to military units — which are not always complying.

Franks said his forces have captured 3,000 prisoners.

■ Coalition troops pressed toward Baghdad but many were halted by a sandstorm near the holy city of Karbala, 50 miles to the south.

■ Troops farther south were facing deadly ambushes and discovering that many Iraqi fighters had discarded their uniforms in favor of civilian clothes. In the Rumaila oil fields, five Iraqis in civilian clothes, who appeared to be surrendering, fired machine guns at British soldiers, U.S. Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks said seven fires were burning in the field.

■ In hopes of showing that he remained at the helm, Saddam boasted in a televised speech that "victory will be ours soon."

U.S. and British officials said the language was so general that it was unclear when the tape was made.

■ Iraq claimed to have shot down two U.S. helicopters and taken the pilots prisoner, a day after more than 20 Americans were killed or captured. Franks said two pilots were missing, but he dismissed reports a helicopter was downed by "farmers."

■ In his first appearance since the start of the war, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz held a news conference at a downtown Baghdad hotel. Aziz said the Iraqi leadership is in "good shape" and that Saddam is in "full control" of the army and the country.

■ The northern front appeared to be building, with American planes landing in Kurdish territory and airstrikes pounding positions of an Islamic group with alleged al-Qaida and Baghdad ties. Coalition warplanes bombed military barracks near Kurdish-held Chamchamal, near the oil center of Kirkuk.

■ President Bush planned to tell congressional leaders that the war will cost between \$70 billion and \$80 billion.

■ U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan warned of a humanitarian crisis in Basra, scene of fierce fighting. Annan said "urgent measures" were needed to restore the city's electricity and water supply.

■ A U.S. envoy rushed back to Turkey to discuss Turkish plans to send troops into northern Iraq despite Washington's objections. The European Union head office also warned Turkey not to enter northern Iraq, hinting that doing so would damage its chances of joining the 15-nation bloc.

■ Oil prices surged after the stiffening resistance from Iraqi troops raised fears the war might take longer than anticipated.

From The Associated Press

Attack

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Akbar's family moved to Louisiana last summer from Moreno Valley, Calif., 60 miles east of Los Angeles, neighbors said. Jim Gordon, who lived across the street in Moreno Valley for five years, said he didn't know the family well but that police often went to the house. He said the residents played loud music and had occasional domestic disputes.

Akbar was born Mark Fidel Kools. His mother said she changed his name to Hasan Akbar after she remarried when he was a young boy.

Public records found by The Associated Press showed listings for Hasan Akbar under the name Kools as well.

"He was never in trouble," Abdul Karim Hasan, the center's imam, or religious leader, told The Tennessean. "He was always standing on the outside of any kind of tussles between kids."

Bilal said the military had not contacted her and expressed disbelief in the accusations against her son.

"He wouldn't try to take nobody's life," she said. "He's not like that. He said the only thing he was going out there to do was blow up the bridges."

The Army identified the dead soldier as Capt. Christopher Scott Seifert, 27, of Easton, Pa.

News tracker: What's new with old news

War on terrorism

Yemeni-American's plea deal: A second of six Yemeni-American men accused of training at an al-Qaida camp in Afghanistan months before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks pleaded guilty Monday in Buffalo, N.Y., to charges he supported al-Qaida.

Shafal Mosed, 24, entered the plea to a charge of knowingly and unlawfully providing and attempting to provide material resources to a foreign terrorist organization, namely al-Qaida.

Under a plea deal, he agreed to cooperate with investigators. In exchange, prosecutors dropped one charge and agreed to seek a lighter sentence of eight years.

Indonesian security: Recent warnings by Western governments of heightened terror threats against their nationals in Indonesia give "a skewed impression" of actual security conditions in the country, the government said Monday.

Citing risk of further attacks, many Western countries have warned their citizens not to travel to Indonesia — the world's most populous Muslim nation — since last year's bombings on the resort island of Bali that killed 202 people.

Iraq war bill: A South Korean ruling party lawmaker said Sunday he plans to submit a bill to stop government plans to send military engineers to support the U.S.-led war against Iraq.

The South Korean government adopted Friday a plan to dispatch about 600 military engineers and 100 medics. It submitted a bill to the National Assembly for approval.

Kim Kyung-jae of the ruling Millennium Democratic Party said he plans to submit a revised bill that calls for the dispatch of medics only.

Relatives doubt terror claim: Guyanese relatives of a man U.S. officials have described as a possible terrorist have said they think the FBI is looking for the wrong man.

Saudi-born Adnan G. El Shukrijumah, 27, showed no signs of extremism when he stayed with relatives, saying he was a very devout Muslim, his cousin Marzab Juman said.

The FBI issued an alert Thursday asking law enforcement agencies and the public to be on the lookout for El Shukrijumah, who may be plotting terrorist attacks against the United States or its interests abroad.

Nation

New England school plot: A teenager accused of leading a group of fellow students in plotting a violent attack at New Bedford High School in Massachusetts was sentenced Monday to three years probation.

Eric McKeehan pleaded guilty earlier this month to charges including conspiracy to commit assault and murder and unlawful possession of ammunition.

Investigators say McKeehan was the ringleader in a plot by five youths to stage a Columbine-like attack in November 2001. But his lawyer has said he doesn't believe the attack would have been carried out.

Church sex-abuse victims: Three Americans, who claim they were victims of priestly sex abuse as children, said Monday they have been unable to obtain a meeting with Pope John Paul II to express their concerns over the scandal that has engulfed the Roman Catholic Church in the United States.

"We will knock on any door until one opens," said Gary Bergeron, of Lowell, Mass., who came to Rome with his father, Joseph Bergeron, 78, and Bernie McDade of Salem.

Women's salaries: Women are less likely than men to reach the highest salary brackets and are more likely to live in poverty, according to a government survey released Monday.

Nearly 16 percent of men age 15 and older who worked full-time in 2001 earned at least \$75,000 a year, compared with 6 percent of women, the Census Bureau reported. About 20 percent of men earned between \$50,000 and \$75,000, compared to 12 percent of women.

Chesapeake Bay pollution: States around the Chesapeake Bay have set tough limits aimed at reducing nitrogen pollution by nearly 40 percent, meaning they will have to improve sewage treatment and farm practices.

The new goal cuts tolerable limits of nitrogen to no more than 175 million pounds per year. About 285 million pounds pour into the bay each year from farms, livestock manure, sewage-treatment plants and other sources, according to computer estimates.

But environmentalists said the goals do not go far enough to remove the bay from the EPA's dirty-waters list.

World

Chavez lawsuit dismissed: The National Court has dismissed a lawsuit accusing Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez of crimes against humanity, saying Spain has no jurisdiction to prosecute crimes committed by a sitting head of state, court sources said Monday.

The suit had been filed in January by lawyers representing Spaniards and Venezuelans killed in street violence in Venezuela last year.

Kashmir violence: Suspected Islamic militants dressed in Indian army uniforms shot to death 24 Hindus in a remote village in Kashmir early Monday, police said.

A group of about eight to 10 armed men dragged villagers out of their homes in Nadimarg in the disputed Himalayan province and shot them at close range, police and witnesses said. The dead included two children.

The victims, upper-caste Hindus known as Kashmiri Pandits, were lined up and shot outside a temple. Others in the village managed to escape, said police officer M.A. Anjum.

The massacre, in the village 30 miles south of the summer capital of Srinagar, could increase tensions between India and Pakistan. The nuclear rivals came to the brink of war after the Indian government blamed Pakistan for similar attacks a year ago.

The American Ambassador to India, Robert Blackwill, condemned "the ghastly murder of innocent men, women and children."

War crimes tribunal: The Yugoslav war crimes tribunal has dropped proceedings against a Bosnian Muslim commander, Gen. Mehmed Alagic, who died earlier this month of a heart attack.

Alagic, 56, died March 7 in his hometown of Sanski Most. He was one of three Bosnian Muslim wartime commanders arrested in August 2001 for alleged crimes committed during the country's 1992-1995 war. All three were released pending trial.

The men's indictment accuses them of executing Serb and Croat civilians and prisoners, using hostages as human shields and pillaging towns.

Korean summit scandal: South Korea's former President Kim Dae-jung could be questioned over alleged payoffs his government made to North Korea to seal a historic inter-Korean summit in 2000, a radio station reported Sunday.

South Korea's Hyundai business group has admitted giving North Korea \$500 million shortly before the summit in June 2000 between then President Kim and North Korean leader Kim Jong Il.

The summit was a crowning achievement for the former South Korean leader and helped him win the 2000 Nobel Peace Prize.

Japan aid for Jordan: Japan said Sunday it will provide \$100 million in aid to Jordan to help it deal with humanitarian needs due to the U.S.-led attacks on its neighbor, Iraq.

Aid workers in Jordan are expecting the country to be flooded with tens of thousands of refugees from Iraq.

Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi said the money will pay for food, water and other humanitarian needs.

Iraqi diplomat: Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said Sunday she has asked her foreign secretary to take steps against an Iraqi diplomat allegedly involved in espionage activity in the Philippines.

Philippine officials expelled last month an Iraqi consul, Husham Husain, over suspicions of links with Philippine Muslim extremists. It was not immediately clear if the diplomat would be reprimanded or expelled.

Baby smuggling arrests: Police arrested about 10 people in an apparent scheme to smuggle and sell infants reportedly found in nylon gym bags on a bus in southern China, an official said Sunday.

Authorities were trying to find the parents of the 28 infants, said a government official in the Guangxi region who declined to give his full name.

Referendum vote: War-weary Chechens went to polling stations in their battered cities and in sprawling refugee camps Sunday to vote in a constitutional referendum that the Kremlin portrays as a step toward restoring stability in the republic after nearly a decade of bloodshed and lawlessness.

Although some troops pulled out in a well-publicized withdrawal shortly before the referendum, Russia maintains a massive military presence in Chechnya and rebels mount attacks almost daily.

From wire services

Networks mull airing tape

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — U.S. television networks spent hours weighing Sunday whether to air video footage, shown elsewhere in the world, of what appeared to be American prisoners of war in Iraq.

The images were picked up from Iraqi television by the Arab satellite station Al-Jazeera.

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld said the Geneva Conventions make it illegal for prisoners to be pictured and humiliated, adding that "television networks that carry such pictures are, I would say, doing something that's unfortunate."

That left network executives with agonizing decisions involving both matters of taste and the question of whether they were letting the Pentagon influence their independent newsgathering decisions.

POWs: 'Please do something for my son'

Continued from Page 1

Thorn said she heard the news from her mother Sunday, adding, "You know, hundreds of thousands of soldiers are out there. You never think that one of your family members would be one of those to be taken captive."

Jean Offutt, a spokeswoman for Fort Bliss in Texas, said 10 or more of those who were missing Sunday were with the 507th Maintenance Company, which deployed last month with the 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade. The 507th is not considered a combat unit, officials said.

The video footage aired on Iraqi TV showed Miller answering questions in a shaky voice, his eyes darting back and forth between an interviewer and another person who couldn't be seen on camera.

Asked why he came to Iraq, he replied, "I come to fix broke stuff."

Asked if he came to shoot Iraqis, he answered, "No, I come to shoot only if I am shot at. They don't bother me, I don't bother them."

Miller, of the Wichita area, graduated from Valley Center High School. He and his family had been living in Texas, but his wife, Jessa, and their two children moved back to Park City to live with her mother when Miller was deployed in December. Valley Center and Park City are near Wichita.

Hershberger said Miller has a 4-year-old son and 7-month-old daughter. Miller was a welder before joining the military last summer to help pay student loans, he said.

All of the networks said they would not show video of what was said to be an Iraqi morgue containing American bodies, saying the material was neither newsworthy nor appropriate for airing.

However, both CNN and NBC have aired a still image of unidentifiable bodies.

ABC News President David Westin said the network was giving the Pentagon "a reasonable period of time" to contact the families of the POWs before airing the tape.

On Sunday evening, ABC ran a still picture of one of the captured Americans after Peter Jennings interviewed his mother.

NBC, meanwhile, aired a short clip of one of the captured soldiers in its nightly news after the network became aware that the soldier's family had been contacted, a spokeswoman said.

Hershberger said his mother was not happy when Miller was deployed overseas, but Miller did not seem overly concerned.

"He is kind of cocky — he didn't act scared at all," Hershberger said.

Hershberger said he did not know how his brother felt about going to Iraq, adding that he didn't know himself whether the United States should have gone to war with Iraq.

"I feel action should be taken for terrorists, but I think the U.S. government only has itself to blame for terrorists feeling the way they do," he said.

"[The United States] puts themselves in other people's business that they shouldn't have been in."

Hudson's mother said her son identified himself on the video but didn't give any more information. She said he appeared to be uninjured, unlike some of the others in the video.

"It's like a bad dream, seeing your son get captured on TV," she said. Mrs. Hudson, who is of Filipino ancestry, said she saw the footage on a Filipino station she subscribes to.

A 1998 graduate of Alamogordo High School, Joseph Hudson did weight training at the school and liked fishing, bowling and card games, his mother said.

"I'm just praying that the other people [in the military] will get him out of there," said Mrs. Hudson, 53.

She said her son joined the Army to have a good future, not to fight. He is a mechanic who specializes in fixing trucks, she said.

1st British combat casualty

LONDON — A British soldier was killed in combat in southern Iraq on Monday, the first British combat death since the war began, the Ministry of Defense said.

The soldier, whose name was not made public, was killed near Az Zubayr in southern Iraq, the ministry said. A spokeswoman declined to provide further details, but said the soldier's family had been notified.

Sixteen other British servicemen have died in the Persian Gulf, in two helicopter accidents and the downing of a British jet by friendly fire from a U.S. missile battery. Two others were reported missing Sunday after their convoy was attacked in southern Iraq.

Syria hit by mistake

DAMASCUS, Syria — A U.S. missile hit a passenger bus on the Iraqi side of the border as it carried Syrian civilians fleeing the war, killing five people and wounding 10, Syria's official news agency reported Monday.

The bus was transporting 37 passengers when it was struck by the air-to-surface missile Sunday near the border of the two countries, the agency reported. Syrian officials refused a request by The Associated Press to go to an area near the site Monday.

A U.S. Central Command spokeswoman had no information on the report. She said, however, that U.S. forces do not target civilians and that they fire very carefully, using precision-guided missiles against military targets.

Swiss bank gives up Iraqi cash

ZURICH, Switzerland — Swiss banking giant UBS said Monday it will hand over to the U.S. government some Iraqi assets that had been frozen since 1990.

UBS — Switzerland's largest and Europe's second-ranked bank — declined to reveal how much money it was releasing to U.S. authorities from blocked accounts at UBS branches in the United States.

"The funds stem from payments of U.S. oil companies to Iraqi ones for deliveries ahead of the implementation of sanctions against Iraq in 1990," UBS spokesman Serge Steiner told Dow Jones Newswires.

The United Nations imposed the freeze on Iraqi assets, part of a package of sanctions, following Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait. The embargo was maintained after Saddam's army was expelled from Kuwait by a U.S.-led coalition in 1991 because Iraq failed to show it had disarmed.

From The Associated Press

Coalition fights Republican Guard

BY MEG RICHARDS

The Associated Press

Coalition planes targeted Republican Guard forces just south of Baghdad on Monday in perhaps the largest assault to date on Saddam Hussein's highly trained troops, U.S. officials said. Farther south, allied troops pressed toward the capital with new wariness, as Iraqi militiamen proved they were not a beaten force and sandstorms snarled the advance.

Facing a pattern of deadly ambushes and ruses, and with many of Saddam's supporters discarding their uniforms in favor of civilian clothes, coalition forces responded with tough new tactics in the south.

U.S. officials also confirmed their forces have arrived in northern Iraq and have been operating there for about 24 hours.

Coalition warplanes bombed a military barracks near the Kurdish-held town of Chamchamal, not far from the Iraqi oil center of Kirkuk.

Iraq claimed to have shot down two U.S. helicopters and taken pilots prisoner, a day after more than 20 Americans were killed or captured.

Speaking at a briefing in Qatar, Army Gen. Tommy Franks said Saddam's command and control network was still working but was damaged.

Franks also accused the Iraqis of "criminal" behavior in using civilians as human shields, intentionally placing them next to military equipment and formations as a deterrent to U.S. attacks.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, holding a news conference at a downtown Baghdad hotel on Monday, said the Iraqi leadership is in "good shape" and that Saddam is in "full control" of the army and the country.

In Baghdad, security and police officers dug more trenches around military offices in the heart of the Iraqi capital, as smoke from fires set to conceal targets from bombing hung over the city Monday. Daytime traffic was heavy in some areas, youngsters played soccer on side streets and Iraqis walked the city despite the tension from days of bombing by coalition forces.

Fifty miles to the south, a brutal sandstorm with howling winds stalled U.S. troops near Karbala, a city holy to Iraq's

majority Shiite Muslims. As the 7th Infantry Regiment pressed north, Iraqi militiamen shot mortars at a supply convoy of Humvees and cargo trucks. There were no casualties. Commanders requested air support, but the Iraqis were able to flee easily in small, civilian trucks.

Armed members of Saddam's Fedayeen, the Baath Party paramilitary organization, have increasingly been attacking coalition supply lines in this way.

Franks said U.S. forces had "intentionally bypassed enemy formations," but that the Fedayeen had been harassing the U.S. rear in southern Iraq.

With tension about such attacks mounting, Marines operating in the south took a tough approach with Iraqis they encountered Monday, forcing men from vehicles, questioning them and then slashing their tires to make sure they wouldn't harass other convoys.

Coalition officials said their forces were exchanging fire Monday with Iraqis on the outskirts of Basra, Iraq's main southern city, where the allies earlier captured an airport and a key bridge. Commanders held off storming the city, hoping its Iraqi defenders would give up, but they have held firm.

In another signal that the situation remained fluid, the coalition canceled press tours of the strategic southern port of Umm Qasr and the Rumaila oil fields, which Iraqi forces set ablaze early in the ground war. Fighting in that area was fierce enough to drive civilian firefighters away.

Franks said that U.S.-led coalition forces were making "rapid and in some cases dramatic" progress in Iraq but also have met sporadic resistance.

In his address, Saddam praised his supporters for their resistance.

In one incident Sunday near An Nasiriyah, a crossing point over the Euphrates River, a group of Iraqis waved a white flag in surrender, then opened up with artillery fire. Another group appeared to welcome coalition troops, then attacked them, U.S. officials said.

Nine Marines died and a dozen U.S. soldiers were missing and presumed captured after the surprise engagements. Two British soldiers were missing after a convoy of vehicles they were traveling in was attacked in southern Iraq. Additionally, two Marines were killed in accidents, military officials said Monday.

Franks: Troops moving swiftly

BY NICOLE WINFIELD

The Associated Press

CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar — U.S.-led coalition forces are making "rapid and in some cases dramatic" progress in Iraq but also have met sporadic resistance, U.S. Gen. Tommy Franks said Monday.

He said Saddam Hussein's government still has a working command-and-control network, although it was damaged.

"I will say that command and control within the country is much less robust than it was five days ago," said Franks, commander of the coalition troops in the region. "They still do have a means — a somewhat limited means of communication."

Even though Saddam's regime was able to issue instructions to his followers, "many orders which have been given by this regime have not been obeyed by a great number of his subordinates," he said.

He said U.S.-led forces had "intentionally bypassed enemy formations," but added that Iraq's "Fedayeen" militia had been harassing the U.S. rear in southern Iraq.

Franks said troops also were collecting information about possible chemical and biological weapons as they sweep northward.

"I think that we probably have received several ... bits of information over the last three or four days about potential WMD [weapons of mass destruction] locations," he said. "Some of those locations are in areas where we have control, some we have not yet gone into yet."

Franks said he did not know if Saddam's government would use any such weapons but added that some believe the pressure to do so would be "greater and greater" as coalition forces close in.

Franks, reacting to battles Sunday in which about 20 U.S. forces were killed or missing as a result of ambushes and a fake surrender, said: "We know that the Fedayeen has in fact put itself in a position to mill about, to create difficulties in rear areas, and I can assure you that contact with those forces is not unexpected."

Franks said cleaning up the bypassed forces would take some time "across the days."

In the campaign against Saddam's regime, Franks said his forces captured 3,000 prisoners.

Franks accused the Iraqis of "criminal" behavior in using civilians as human shields, intentionally placing them next to military equipment and formations as a deterrent to U.S. attacks.

Americans see ugly day for coalition

BY CALVIN WOODWARD

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It was the day the war turned ugly for the allies fighting it, the leaders running it and anyone who saw the images at home.

Up to nine dead Marines. A dozen soldiers in an Army convoy attacked and missing, some looking glum and scared in Iraqi custody while comrades lay dead nearby. Uncounted wounded on multiple, acrid battlefields.

Then the self-inflicted harm: a British warplane downed by American friendly fire, with two Britons dead; a deadly grenade attack on a U.S. compound in Kuwait blamed on an American soldier with "an attitude problem."

The bad news was not confined to Iraq. In nearly forgotten Afghanistan, a Pave Hawk helicopter went down. Six died.

It's not that everything was suddenly going wrong. It just seemed that way after a start that seemed to go almost all right.

And now war leaders had to deal with images it hoped would never come from this invasion.

"Certainly, I don't think that these pic-

tures will damage either the psychology of our soldiers, morale of our soldiers or the steadfastness of our government or the resolve of our people," said Lt. Gen. John Abizaid, deputy commander of the Central Command.

"We're a pretty tough people."

Through it all, the vanguard of the invasion force moved to within 100 miles of Baghdad on Sunday after an extraordinary push north, through a hail of machine-gun fire from a defeated Iraqi corps.

But the lasting image was of a terrified Army maintenance soldier, one of five captives interviewed by Iraqi TV as four bodies lay on the floor — their gruesome fate shown on Arab TV, but not in the United States.

"I come to fix broke stuff," he said when asked why he was in Iraq. He said he was from Kansas.

Asked Monday whether a lot of resistance had been expected, Lt. Col. Ronnie McCourt, a spokesman for British forces in the Gulf, said in Qatar: "That's not unexpected. This is not a videogame where everything is clear and neat and tidy. Some enemy who feel that they want to carry on fighting will inevitably do so."

From President Bush down, officials

warned from the start it wouldn't be easy. "A campaign on the harsh terrain of a nation as large as California could be longer and more difficult than some predict," Bush said on the night he unleashed the armed forces.

But officials also raised expectations that Iraqi soldiers might give up early on the defense of their country.

They said all 8,000 soldiers in Iraq's 51st Mechanized Division in southern Iraq surrendered, then clarified that a day later. The division's top commanders had given up and the troops had scattered.

Some U.S. officials led people to expect a quick campaign with precision munitions, retired CIA counterterrorism official Vincent Cannistraro said Sunday.

"People thought the Iraqis would be waving little American flags like it was occupied France in World War II," he said.

"This is not an occupied country. It is Iraq and it is run by Iraqis, and for better or worse they are not welcoming Americans as liberators."

"... No one is welcoming the Americans until Saddam's body is on the ground and people can go over and kick it," Cannistraro added.

Iraq claims to have shot down copters; 2 flyers missing

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Two U.S. pilots from a Apache Longbow helicopter were reported missing in action Monday after fighting against Iraqi Republican Guard units in central Iraq, said Army Gen. Tommy Franks, commander of U.S. Central Command.

Franks dispelled Iraqi government claims that they had downed two helicopters. He could not provide information on the fate of the two missing pilots.

The Apache was one of "30 or 40 attack helicopters that moved onto targets," of Saddam Hussein's elite army, Franks said during a news briefing from the U.S. Central Command's forward headquarters at Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar.

Franks also dismissed Iraqi claims that farmers shot down the helicopter.

"One attack helicopter was downed. All others returned safely," said Army Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, CENTCOM's deputy director of operations. In spite of the downed aircraft, "we know they were very effective in their mission," Franks said.

Iraqi state television showed pictures of one helicopter in a grassy field. Men in Arab headdresses holding Kalashnikovs automatic rifles danced around the aircraft.

"A small number of peasants shot down two Apaches," Information Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf said. "Perhaps we will show pictures of the pilots."

Iraqi state television also showed pictures of two helmets apparently belonging to members of the helicopter's crew, as well as documents and other papers lying on the ground.

During a briefing at Camp

As Sayliyah in Qatar, Franks acknowledged one helicopter did not return from its mission in Iraq.

"We have a two-man crew missing," he said, adding that their fate was "uncertain."

Earlier, Air Force Master Sgt. Grant Windsor at the Pentagon confirmed one Apache was missing but said he had no information on the pilots. He said the Defense Department was evaluating the tape shown on Iraqi TV.

The helicopter shown on television Monday did not appear to be damaged, suggesting it had been forced to land by mechanical problems rather than ground fire.

The report of the downed helicopters and new prisoners of war came only one day after al-Jazeera showed video images of five American prisoners of war captured in fighting near the southern Iraqi city of Nasiriyah.

"Yesterday was a black day and the black days will increase," Sahhaf said.

Even so, Sahhaf said the POWs would be treated according to the Geneva Conventions. He rejected accusations that Iraq had violated such accords by allowing Iraqi television to film them and ask questions.

Referring to televised video images of Iraqi prisoners of war, Sahhaf claimed the men were actually civilians taken away at gunpoint by U.S. forces.

"Is no one supposed to tell them they acted inappropriately?" he asked. "These hypocrites! We tell them we abide by Geneva Conventions."

He accused allied forces of "crying tears of crocodiles," for attacking Iraq and finding the consequences unpleasant.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.
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Crashed helo was on mercy mission

BY JAMEY KEATEN

The Associated Press

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — A U.S. Air Force helicopter on a mercy mission to help two injured Afghan children crashed in southeastern Afghanistan, killing all six people on board, the U.S. military said Monday.

The HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter from the 41st Rescue Squadron at Moody Air Force Base in Georgia was on its way late Sunday to pick up the children, who had suffered injuries to the head, Army spokesman Col. Roger King said. There were thunderstorms in the area at the time, he said.

"You think about the sacrifice these guys made, especially in this case where you've got military personnel who are conducting a flight that's basically a humanitarian mission," King added.

"They're trying to go out and save some Afghan kid's life — it's wrenching."

The remains of the six peo-

ple on board — all airmen — have been recovered and were to be flown to Bagram air base and prepared for transfer back to the United States, King said.

"The investigation will probably bear out as to whether enemy weather played any part in it."

King said the area is not considered a hostile region, and there are few U.S. military operations there.

Press officer Master Sgt. Richard Breach said the cause of the crash was being investigated but "this is not believed to be the result of enemy action."

U.S. Central Command confirmed that the helicopter was not shot down.

"The names of those killed are being withheld until their next of kin can be notified," Moody Air Force Base spokeswoman Lt. Alysia Harvey said early Monday.

The helicopter crashed late Sunday about 8:50 p.m., some 20 miles north of Ghazni, Af-

ghanistan, according to officials at Bagram air base, north of the capital, Kabul. Ghazni is 50 miles southwest of Kabul.

In Kabul, Foreign Ministry spokesman Omar Samad said: "We express the Afghan government's sorrow for this incident, which occurred during a humanitarian operation to reach some Afghan children in need of medical care."

U.S. military officials in Washington and Afghanistan said the medical emergency and the helicopter flight were not in connection with Operation Valiant Strike, a mission involving members of the Army's 82nd Airborne Division in southeastern Afghanistan.

That mission, which began earlier this month, is meant to root out remnants of the al-Qaida and Taliban believed to be operating in the area.

"The Air Force is a close-knit family and the loss of one of our own affects us all," Brig. Gen. John Folkerts,

commander of the 347th Rescue Wing at Moody, said in a statement. The air force base is located in Valdosta, Ga.

"We wish to express our deepest condolences to the family members of these brave airmen and want them to know that we will not forget the valuable contributions they made to this country and the impact they made on the Air Force," Folkerts said.

Ten days ago, about 20 gunmen fired on a U.S. special forces convoy on the road between the town of Gardez, about 40 miles to the east of the crash, and Khost. The attack led to a firefight involving coalition F-16 and A-10 aircraft and a half-dozen of Apache helicopters. Five of the assailants were killed, and there were no coalition casualties.

The last helicopter crash in Afghanistan was Jan. 30, when an Army Black Hawk helicopter — the Army's version of the Pave Hawk — on a training mission crashed near the Bagram air base, killing four.

12 wounded arrive at Ramstein; Landstuhl ready

BY MARNI MCENTEE

Stars and Stripes

LANDSTUHL, Germany — Medical personnel at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center are treating the first group of patients to arrive here with wounds received during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Twelve patients were flown into Ramstein Air Base from Kuwait on Monday morning on a C-141 cargo plane and were transferred by ambulance to the hospital, the Army's largest in Europe.

Of those 12, eight — six Marines and two soldiers — had combat-related wounds, according to Marie Shaw, hospital spokeswoman.

Hospital officials would not reveal units of any of the wounded, but did say all the injuries did not occur in one place.

Most of the wounded had blast-related injuries, including at least one that was apparently caused by a rocket-launched grenade, hospital officials said during a briefing Monday afternoon.

Col. David Rubenstein, hospital commander, said doctors have not yet talked to the patients about details.

"We have not gotten to the point of asking what happened and where it happened — the things patients like to talk about," he said.

He also said some of the wounded had undergone surgery downrange before being evacuated to Ramstein.

Two of the wounded were in intensive care. The rest were placed in the medical surgery ward, said Maj. Yong Chun, a Landstuhl physician.

The wounded were initially greeted by chaplains as well as medical personnel.

"Their moods were positive, at least the ones we were able to talk to," said Army Lt. Col. Glenn Woodsman, one of the chaplains.

First Lt. Christine Gerba, a nurse, said that the first thing that some of the more stable patients wanted to do was to contact their families.

She said one in particular really wanted to call his parents.

In addition to these 12 patients, two Marines wounded in battle were brought to Landstuhl on Sunday.

Hospital officials also said the first members of the 101st Airborne Division wounded in Kuwait when a fellow soldier tossed a grenade into a tent complex are expected at the hospital Tuesday.

In recent weeks, the hospital has doubled the number of its beds to 300 in anticipation of treating soldiers injured in the fighting in Iraq.

Roughly 600 Air National Guard troops joined the hospital's staff of 1,000 to deal with the anticipated patient flow.

Since October 2001, Landstuhl has treated about 2,000 patients injured during Operation Enduring Freedom and the fighting in Iraq.

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U.S. wants to know if chem factory produced weapons

BY MATT KELLEY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. troops have found a suspected chemical factory in Iraq and officials were trying to determine whether it was involved in making chemical weapons, U.S. officials said.

The plant is near the city of Najaf, which U.S. troops reached Sunday on a push to Baghdad, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

U.S. Central Command said in a statement late Sunday that troops were examining "sites of interest," but did not elaborate. The statement said reports describing the discovery as a chemical weapons factory were "premature."

President Bush and other U.S. officials say ridding Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's regime of chemical and biological weapons is the main objective of the war.

Saddam's government denies it has any chemical, biological or nuclear weapons or programs to produce them.

Asked at a news conference in Qatar on Sunday about reports of the chemical plant, Lt.

Gen. John Abizaid of U.S. Central Command declined comment. He said top Iraqi officers have been questioned about chemical weapons.

"We have an Iraqi general officer, two Iraqi general officers that we have taken prisoner, and they are providing us with information," Abizaid said.

If the plant is confirmed as a chemical weapons factory, it would be the first find by the U.S.-led invasion force validating U.S. allegations that Iraq still has weapons of mass destruction.

The U.S. government believes only a handful of top Iraqi officials know full details of Saddam's chemical and biological weapons programs, and that the regime had years to find sophisticated hiding places for them.

Iraqi officials have insisted that they destroyed all of the chemical and biological weapons they made after the 1991 Persian Gulf War — a claim U.N. weapons inspectors have questioned.

U.N. weapons inspectors are not aware of any large-scale chemical sites that could be used to make chemical weap-

ons in Najaf, said Ewen Buchanan, spokesman for chief inspector Hans Blix.

However, there are many such dual-use sites in other parts of the country because of Iraq's petrochemical industry.

U.N. inspectors visited a cement plant in Najaf earlier this year but did not report finding anything.

The U.S. military's discovery was first reported in the Jerusalem Post, which has a reporter traveling with the unit from the Army's 3rd Infantry Division that reached the chemical plant.

The newspaper reported that about 30 Iraqi troops, including a general, surrendered at the plant.

Observers believe the most important prisoners of war so far probably are those captured by U.S. special operations forces, working in secrecy, who have seized at least one airfield in western Iraq.

Those airfields probably would have been used to launch any missiles at countries such as Israel, and thus might contain information pointing to where the Iraqi regime stored chemical weapons or how it planned to move them to missile sites.

New Saddam tape?

BAGHDAD, Iraq — With U.S.-led forces closing in on Baghdad, a composed Saddam Hussein tried to rally his people and his troops with a stirring address Monday in which he vowed that allied forces would be crushed and "victory will be ours soon."

In Washington, a senior U.S. official speaking on condition of anonymity said U.S. intelligence had determined that Saddam's speech was recorded. However, it is unclear when it was taped.

"Iraq will strike the necks [of each enemy fighter]," Saddam said. "Strike them, and strike evil so that evil will be defeated."

Taunting the allies, he asked: "Have you found what the devil that besets your soul promised you in Iraq?"

Saddam urged loyal Iraqis to cut the throats of the invaders and insisted that Iraqi troops would prevail in the fight against a more technologically advanced enemy.

British Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon said he was not convinced the address was current.

"The contemporary events referred to ... did not appear to me to be unambiguously contemporary," he said.

War price tag

WASHINGTON — President Bush is confronting the costs of the Iraq war in lives and dollars, grieving for lost civilians and soldiers while telling lawmakers it will cost at least \$70 billion to fight Baghdad.

The White House has for months refused to provide a price tag for war in Iraq, saying too many variables were at play. That stance forced Congress to vote last week on budget resolutions that included Bush's proposed tax cuts, without war costs factored in.

Bush was to provide the estimate to congressional leaders Monday, ensuring that lawmakers' discussion of war spending will take place amid a surge of public support for American troops.

Aides at the White House and on Capitol Hill said the figure will be between \$70 billion and \$80 billion.

From The Associated Press

Polls: War support high, but optimism wanes

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The American public's support for the war against Iraq remains strong, but early optimism that the war will be quick has started to wane, weekend polls suggest.

About seven in 10 people said they support the war, and even more said they believe that it's generally going well, according to an ABC-Washington Post poll.

While the public was generally optimistic in the opening days of the war that it would be relatively short, public hopes that the war would be over quickly have started to fade, according to several

polls out Monday. That trend emerged as U.S. forces encountered heavy resistance Sunday and had troops killed and captured.

A CBS-New York Times poll taken Sunday found that a majority, 53 percent, say the war against Iraq could take months, while four in 10 said a few weeks. A majority in Saturday's polling said they thought it would just take a few weeks.

The ABC-Washington Post poll Sunday found that a majority, 54 percent, now think the war will cause a significant number of casualties, compared with 37 percent who felt that way late last week.

A CNN-USA Today Gallup poll taken over the weekend found that the number who said the war is going well dropped from 62 percent Saturday to 44 percent on Sunday.

The CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll of 1,020 adults was taken Saturday and Sunday and has an error margin of plus or minus 3 percentage points. The CBS-New York Times poll of 605 adults was taken Sunday and has an error margin of plus or minus 4 percentage points. The ABC-Washington Post poll of 580 adults was taken Sunday and has an error margin of plus or minus 4.5 percentage points.

Annan warns of crisis in Basra

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan warned Monday of a humanitarian crisis in the Iraqi city of Basra, where coalition forces were involved in fierce fighting.

British military officials said troops were engaged in artillery exchanges with Iraqi troops outside Iraq's second-largest city and were unable to move through it because of pockets of resistance.

Asked at the United Nations whether coalition forces were looking after the needs of the Iraqi people, Annan said he was told by the International Committee of the Red Cross that "the people in Basra may be facing a humanitarian disaster."

Annan said "urgent measures" needed to be taken to restore the city's electricity and water supply.

The Red Cross said in Geneva on Monday that the water situation is "close to what we call a humanitarian crisis."

Annan made clear the United States and its allies "are responsible for the safety and welfare" of the Iraqi people. But the United Nations was working to resume its humanitarian role there as soon as possible, he said.

Annan also urged all sides in the conflict to act in accordance with international laws governing war.

"Prisoners of war have to be treated humanely. Both sides have a responsibility to ensure that this is done," he said.

The secretary-general also said U.N. weapons inspectors "still have the responsibility for the disarmament of Iraq" and he expected them to return to the region.

The United States, which has its own disarmament teams ready to search for any weapons of mass destruction, has not said whether it would allow U.N. inspectors to participate in the process.

Saddam reaches into bag of dirty tricks to thwart allies

BY NICOLE WINFIELD

The Associated Press

CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar — Saddam Hussein is using guerrilla tactics to snarl the coalition advance, putting elite fighters in civilian clothes, duping U.S. troops with fake surrenders and employing human shields, U.S. and British officials say.

The strategy appears designed to allow coalition forces to advance quickly and overextend their line — they were less than 100 miles from Baghdad four days into the ground war — only to be attacked from the rear.

"These moves are all dangerous to the troops in the field, but they're not dangerous to the success of the mission," Army Lt. Gen. John Abizaid said Sunday at the U.S. Central Command's Gulf post.

In two episodes Sunday near An Nasiriyah, Iraqi forces deceived Americans into believing they were surrendering or otherwise welcoming them.

U.S. officials said one Iraqi unit indicated it was giving up but as the Marines approached, the Iraqis opened fire, killing nine Americans. U.S. military sources said about 40 were wounded.

In another ambush, a maintenance company was attacked near An Nasiriyah, after apparently making a wrong turn. Twelve U.S. soldiers were listed as missing. U.S. officials said the ambush may have involved a "surrender situation."

"The coalition encountered pockets of determined resistance by irregular Iraqi forces who in some cases fought in civilian clothes or in modified commercial vehicles," said U.S. Brig. Gen. Vince Brooks. "These encounters were most intense in the area north of An Nasiriyah, where coalition forces did sustain casualties."

At a secret desert base, pilots of the 3rd Marine Helicopter Wing and intelligence officials reported that "surrendering" Iraqis would put down their arms when Marines

passed by, then pick them up again and attack the helicopters. The small-arms fire has not downed any helicopters or wounded any crew members so far.

There have also been reports of Iraqi troops using civilians as shields, knowing that coalition forces will refrain from firing, Abizaid said.

"There are indications that some of the irregular forces are purposely fighting in positions that are occupied by civilians. There's no doubt about that," he said.

Iraqi forces loyal to Saddam are also believed to be laying explosives at key bridges in Baghdad to detonate if coalition forces arrive, he added.

"We've also received reports of explosives being placed up against certain buildings in inhabited areas in Shiite neighborhoods in Baghdad. And we regard this as a very bad sign and a typical move by Saddam," he said.

Saddam is a Sunni Muslim and has long persecuted the majority Shiite Muslims in Iraq.

Turkish plans to enter Iraq still not OK with U.S.

The Associated Press

ISTANBUL, Turkey — A U.S. special envoy rushed back to Turkey on Monday but failed to reach agreement on Turkey's plans to send troops into northern Iraq — plans that Washington says could lead to friendly fire incidents with U.S. forces and clashes with Iraqi Kurds.

The United States opposes any Turkish intervention, and President George W. Bush said Sunday that Washington had made clear that it expected the Turks to keep out of northern Iraq.

U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, accompanied by U.S. Ambassador Robert Pearson and U.S. military officials, met with Turkish foreign ministry and military officials.

"We have ... talked about the Turkish desire to have a presence in northern Iraq. We do not have agreement on that yet," Khalilzad said after his meetings in Ankara. He said he would hold more talks on Tuesday.

Khalilzad held several meetings with Turkish and Iraqi Kurdish officials last week, but failed to persuade Turkey to stay out of northern Iraq.

Opposition to a Turkish intervention increased Monday with Germany and Belgium announcing that a Turkish incursion could force NATO to review its mission to boost the country's defenses against a possible Iraqi attack. The countries said that a Turkish incursion would compromise

the defensive basis of NATO's deployment of AWACS surveillance planes and other specialist units to Turkey.

Also Monday, the European Union warned Turkey against entering northern Iraq. Ankara is a candidate to join the union and a unilateral incursion could hurt its chances of EU membership.

On Monday, Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan discussed a possible Turkish intervention with the country's military leader, Gen. Hilmi Ozkok.

"The Turkish armed forces have made certain plans and preparations in this matter. When the right time and place comes, the necessary decisions will be made and put into effect," Ozkok said after the meeting.

GI commits suicide

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — An Army Special Forces soldier charged with killing his wife after returning from Afghanistan nine months ago hanged himself in a jail cell Sunday, officials said.

Master Sgt. William Wright was one of four soldiers at Fort Bragg suspected of killing their spouses in a six-week stretch last summer.

Three of the four soldiers suspected of killing their wives were in Special Forces units. Each of those three has now committed suicide.

Wright, 36, was found in his cell about 1 a.m., Lt. Glen Mobley of the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department said. He was declared dead about an hour later.

Wright served with the 3rd Special Forces Group in Afghanistan and returned a few weeks before reporting his wife, Jennifer, missing. He was charged with first-degree murder in her death and since been held without bail.

Sgt. 1st Class Rigoberto Nieves, 32, a Special Forces soldier, fatally shot his wife and himself, two days after he had returned from Afghanistan.

Sgt. 1st Class Brandon Floyd, reportedly a member of the secret Delta Force, shot his wife and then killed himself.

Still facing charges is former Army sergeant Cedric Griffin, who is accused of stabbing his wife, Marilyn, and setting her on fire. He faces death if convicted.

More charges in GI's death

HEIDELBERG, Germany — One of the two 1st Armored Division soldiers accused of murder in the November slaying of Pfc. Clint Lamebear now faces an additional charge.

On March 17, the Army charged Pfc. Jonathan Schroeder with premeditated murder, said Capt. David Gerken, a division spokesman.

Schroeder and Pfc. Andrew Humiston were previously charged with felony murder, robbery, conspiracy to commit robbery and obstruction of justice.

"This is an additional charge that stems from Schroeder's alleged involvement," Gerken said. "The additional charge is an allegation and Schroeder is presumed innocent."

Under military law, the mandatory minimum punishment for premeditated murder is life imprisonment with eligibility for parole.

On Nov. 16, a German man found the body of 18-year-old Lamebear in a Frankfurt garage. The night before, the New Mexico native had been drinking with comrades from the Friedberg-based 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment.

The four-day Article 32 hearing for Schroeder and Humiston ended Jan. 28. No court-martial date has been set, he said.

From staff and wire reports

Many keep watch along borders of homeland

The Associated Press

TERMINAL ISLAND, Calif. — Sidearms in place, batons and pepper spray latched to their belts, the two sea marshals scrambled aboard a pilot boat under a sliver of moonlight.

Still hours before sunrise, they sped off into black waters, headed for the day's first job on this stretch of the homeland front line.

The mission: Meet the incoming cruise liner Ecstasy and ensure no one tries to commandeer it on the way into one of the world's busiest ports.

"Semper Paratus!" one called out in the darkness. "That's our motto: Always be ready."

At the sprawling Los Angeles-Long Beach Port, U.S. Coast Guard marshals have escorted cruise ships to and from sea ever since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. But the job took on new meaning with the start of war with Iraq.

"Like a policeman on a beat, after a while you get into a routine. It's not routine anymore," said security Chief Eric Smith, who supervises one team of marshals. "I pass it on to my guys in the morning: 'Listen, the war is on. Let's be on our toes.'"

The marshals are but one squadron in an army of U.S. agents, state troopers, hometown deputies and private security officers charged with protecting the homeland.

Like the soldiers in the Middle East,

some have given up day jobs and left families behind to assume new roles. The coastline, the borders, the train stations and airports — these are their front lines.

Here, victory comes not from missiles and bombs but with the calm that assures peace in a nation that remembers terror.

Near Mission, Texas, Border Patrol agents in a shallow-bottomed boat scan the mighty Rio Grande. To the south, Mexican children fish for guppies with plastic cups and wave at the agents. From the north come more waves, from birdwatching retirees.

The river's midpoint is the boundary, and agents watch any boats edging toward the U.S. side. They could carry migrants looking for work, but the new threat to watch for is terrorists slipping through.

In bigger cities, beefed-up patrols and bomb-sniffing dogs augment security on streets and other public places.

In Manhattan, New York State Trooper Brian diLorenzo walks his bomb dog, Pit, out of a grimy subway corridor as two elderly women toting shopping bags step aside nervously, halting their conversation in Cantonese.

Trooper and dog move around the city as directed — Herald Square, the Javits Convention Center, a plaza near ground zero.

"Where's the bomb?" diLorenzo prompts again and again, and Pit methodically sniffs.

Senators want woman commander at academy

The Associated Press

DENVER — Sens. John Warner and Wayne Allard have asked the Air Force to put a woman in charge at the Air Force Academy, saying it would bring a much-needed change amid investigations of a sexual assault scandal.

In a letter sent Monday to Air Force Secretary James Roche, the senators accused the academy's current leadership of not dealing with sexual abuse at the school.

"Despite warnings and clear indications that remedial action was needed, these officers failed to take effective action to correct these problems," Warner, R-Va., and Allard, R-Colo., wrote.

The Air Force has two investigations

underway into allegations that female cadets were reprimanded or ostracized for reporting sexual assaults. The Defense Department's inspector general plans to start its own investigation by the end of March.

The senators want the Air Force to consider assigning a female officer to one of the school's top posts — superintendent or commandant, according to Allard's spokesman Dick Wadhams.

Air Force Academy spokeswoman Pam Ancker said school officials would not comment until the Air Force released a report later this week on the abuse allegations.

Earlier this month, Roche said few, if any, female officers would be qualified to lead the academy, where about 15 percent of the cadets are women.

Court rejects ACLU challenge to spying

BY ANNE GEARAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court rejected a civil liberties challenge to post-Sept. 11 law enforcement spying on Monday, refusing to be drawn into a dispute over the boundaries of a law that gave the government broader surveillance authority after the terrorist attacks.

The American Civil Liberties Union and other organizations wanted the justices to consider when the government should be allowed to monitor someone's telephone conversations and e-mail, then use the information to prosecute them.

The Bush administration has argued that the surveillance, and a special court that oversees sensitive domestic espionage tactics, are indispensable tools in the war on terror.

The ACLU used an unusual maneuver to get the case to the Supreme Court, filing an appeal on behalf of people who don't even know they're being monitored. The justices would have had to give special permission to allow it. They refused, without comment.

The action was not a ruling on the merits of the ACLU's challenge, and the issue is expected to return to the high court later.

The administration has aggressively defended its use of wiretaps approved by the super-secret Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, or "spy court," which deals with intelligence requests involving suspected spies, terrorists or foreign agents.

Even the spy court had reservations about that aggressiveness.

Last May, the court ruled that the USA Patriot Act did not justify the use of certain investigative techniques proposed by the administration. Attorney General John Ashcroft appealed to a review court which had never met, or issued a decision, during the spy court's 25-year existence.

That review court sided with the administration and said government officials did not have to limit their monitoring to foreign intelligence. That means law enforcement officers can use the information to build cases for prosecution.

The review court decision "opens the door to surveillance abuses that seriously threatened our democracy in the past," justices were told in the filing by the ACLU, the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee and the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services.

To get a warrant from the spy court, the government must show that a suspect probably is a "foreign power or agent of a foreign power." Law enforcement must meet a higher standard — probable cause that a crime was committed — to get an ordinary criminal warrant for wiretapping or other electronic intrusion.

The administration did not respond to the ACLU's appeal. Any of the nine justices could have demanded a response, but none did.

100 lost in Burundi ferry sinking

The Associated Press

BUJUMBURA, Burundi — More than 100 people drowned after an overloaded ferry sank in Lake Tanganyika off the shores of Burundi, a Burundian army spokesman said Monday.

Burundian sailors counted the bodies of 111 people who were traveling on the the M.V. Kashombwe when it sank late Saturday near Nyanza Lac, 68 miles southwest of Bujumbura, said Col. Augustin Nzabampema.

"Our [navy] team is regularly patrolling on Lake Tanganyika and was able to rescue 41 people; the others were just corpses on the shore; others were still under water," Nzabampema said.

A rebel official from neighboring Congo said the ferry carrying more

than 150 passengers and cargo was travelling from Kalemie, a port town in Congo's Katanga province, to Uvira, another Congolese lake port 186 miles to the north when it sank in a storm.

Lake Tanganyika touches Congo, Burundi, Tanzania and Zambia.

"The ferry is privately owned and was sailing in Burundian waters to avoid the Mayi Mayi [tribal fighters] who are active near the Congolese shores in that part of the lake," Emil Ngoy, the RCD's head of territorial administration told The Associated Press by telephone from rebel headquarters in Goma.

RCD spokesman Jean-Pierre Lola Kisanga said the boat's manifest had 64 names on it, but port authorities in Kalemie estimated the boat was carrying more than 150 people, including many women and children.

More SARS fatalities in Canada, Hong Kong

BY HELEN LUK

The Associated Press

HONG KONG — Scientists in Hong Kong believe they are closer to identifying the mystery illness that has killed at least 11 people and sickened around 400 worldwide, but local media reported concerns Sunday that the disease may be spreading.

But Hong Kong's Hospital Authority said Sunday that an 80-year-old man with SARS had died this weekend, becoming the eighth fatality here, and another 25 people have been sickened for a total of 242.

Meanwhile Canadian officials said Saturday they were investigating a third death from what they suspect was SARS.

About half of those who contracted the disease were ordinary citizens, their family members or friends. The initial outbreak had been confined mainly to health care workers.

Among the latest cases in Hong Kong, three people were infected in the same workplace, said Dr. Leung Pak-yin, deputy health director.

All were colleagues who apparently caught the disease from the sister of an airport employee who spread the sickness to dozens of medical staff at the Prince of Wales Hospital, the hardest-hit institution here, Leung said.

Local media seized on the story as proof the disease was spreading to

the community at large, which Hong Kong officials have repeatedly denied.

"Pneumonia virus invades office," screamed a headline in the Apple Daily.

Hong Kong's education chief announced Sunday that four schools have been temporarily closed until next week and all schools will be disinfected, after five students and two school workers were found to have contracted the disease.

More than 180 students who have shown no symptoms of SARS but have family members sick with it, will also stop attending school for a week to prevent the disease from spreading, said Arthur Li, secretary for education and manpower.

Li said the students and school workers all contracted the disease from sick relatives outside of schools.

If a student or worker at a school contracts SARS, that school will be shut for a week as a precaution, Li added.

"So far there has not been one single case spread from one student to another student within the school," Li said. "We believe that with all these measures, we should be able to contain this virus from spreading within our school community."

Experts suspect Hong Kong's outbreak is linked to an earlier one of an unidentified disease in China, where officials said 305 people fell ill and five died.

'Chicago' crowned with 6 Oscars

Oscar show plays it safe

BY DAVID GERMAIN

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The best-picture Academy Award for the flashy musical "Chicago" was one of the only predictable elements of a ceremony that included three key wins for the Holocaust drama "The Pianist."

On a night when the war with Iraq set a somber tone, Adrien Brody took best-actor and Roman Polanski earned the directing prize for "The Pianist" against higher-profile front-runners. The Japanese film "Spirited Away" won for feature-length animation against cartoon behemoths from Hollywood. Eminem took the best-song Oscar against a field that included veterans Paul Simon and U2.

With six awards, "Chicago" was the main winner at a ceremony where pageantry took on greater solemnity because of the U.S.-led war on Iraq.

"Chicago" became the first musical to win best picture since 1968's "Oliver!" Catherine Zeta-Jones, supporting-actress winner for "Chicago," was the first performer to win an Oscar for a musical since 1972.

Nicole Kidman won for lead actress as author Virginia Woolf in the somber drama "The Hours." Chris Cooper earned the supporting-actor Oscar for the twisted Hollywood tale "Adaptation."

Kidman, Cooper and Zeta-Jones had been front-runners, but first-time nominee Brody was something of a longshot in the best-actor field. Jack Nicholson of "About Schmidt" and Daniel Day-Lewis of "Gangs of New York" had been viewed as best bets to win the trophy.

And it was obvious Brody knew his win was a surprise. He appeared shocked when his name was announced, then bounded onstage and planted an enthusiastic kiss on presenter Halle Berry.

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Most years, the Oscarcast scrambles to be fabulous. This year, with the country at war, Oscar's self-proclaimed challenge was even more ambitious: to tone the show down.

Say what? "Well, I'm glad they cut back on all the glitz," host Steve Martin quipped Sunday night when he first beheld the glamorous stage setting and well-turned-out stars.

But the awards show, aired by ABC, didn't banish glamour. The producers stuck to their knitting and played it

safe. They put on a good show while giving the audience an evening's breather from the outside world.

Of course, the U.S.-led war in Iraq wasn't forgotten. Several people mentioned it in some way. An emotional Adrien Brody asked the audience "to pray for a peaceful and swift resolution" to the war. Viewers also were brought back to reality with a pair of brief war updates from ABC News anchor Peter Jennings.

Host Martin served the ideal dose of smug self-involvement to keep the mood

light. Having also presided in 2001, he shared an insight that "hosting the Oscars for the second time is like making love to a woman for the second time." Beat. "I guess."

Martin kept the show moving, and it returned the favor by holding back on packaged features, clocking in at 3½ hours. This was welcome after last year's record-breaking 4 hours, 23 minutes.

And then there was just the fun of seeing who won, and who didn't. As Martin said at the beginning of the show, "There are no losers here tonight. But we're about to change all that."

Complete list of winners

The complete list of winners at the 75th annual Academy Awards, presented Sunday night at the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles:
 Picture: "Chicago"
 Director: Roman Polanski, "The Pianist"
 Actor: Adrien Brody, "The Pianist"
 Actress: Nicole Kidman, "The Hours"
 Supporting Actor: Chris Cooper, "Adaptation"
 Supporting Actress: Catherine Zeta-Jones, "Chicago"

Adapted Screenplay: "The Pianist," Ronald Harwood
 Animated Feature: "Spirited Away"
 Animated Short: "The ChubbChudds!"
 Art Direction: "Chicago"
 Cinematography: "Road to Perdition"
 Costume: "Chicago"
 Documentary Feature: "Bowling for Columbine"
 Documentary (short subject): "Twin Towers"
 Film Editing: "Chicago"
 Foreign Language Film: "Nowhere in Africa," Germany

Honorary Award: Peter O'Toole
 Live Action Short Film: "This Charming Man (Der Er En Yndig Mand)"
 Makeup: "Frida"
 Original Score: "Frida"
 Original Screenplay: "Talk to Her," Pedro Almodovar
 Original Song: "Lose Yourself" from "8 Mile," Eminem, Jeff Bass and Luis Resto
 Sound: "Chicago"
 Sound Editing: "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers"
 Visual Effects: "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers"

From The Associated Press

"If you ever have an excuse to do something like that, that's IT," he laughed backstage. "So I took my shot."

And how was it?

"Not bad," he grinned.

"The Pianist" was based on the life of Holocaust survivor Wladyslaw Szpilman, a Polish Jew who eluded the Nazis in the Warsaw ghetto. Brody told the Oscar crowd the film was a tribute to Szpilman, and he fought back tears as he said the role gave him a taste of the dehumanization that comes with war.

"It's just a very difficult thing to do, to celebrate when there is sadness and conflict in the world," Brody said backstage. "The timing for me is a little odd."

Polanski had also been a longshot for director. Martin Scorsese was viewed as the likely winner for "Gangs of New York," but Rob Marshall

was a close second for "Chicago." A Holocaust survivor himself, Polanski has been an exile from the United States since he fled 25 years ago to avoid sentencing for having sex with a 13-year-old girl. Polanski would have faced arrest if he had attended the Oscars.

"The Pianist" also earned the adapted-screenplay award for Ronald Harwood.

"Chicago" came in with a leading 13 nominations, followed by the crime epic "Gangs of New York" with 10. But "Gangs" was shut out in every category.

"Chicago" was adapted from the Bob Fosse stage hit about two Jazz Age murderesses using their jailhouse celebrity to further their singing careers.

Musicals gradually fell out of favor in Hollywood after their critical peak in the early

1960s, when "West Side Story," "The Sound of Music" and others won best picture. "Moulin Rouge," a best-picture nominee a year ago, helped rekindle the genre, and "Chicago" has become a huge box-office success with a domestic gross of \$134 million and climbing.

"Spirited Away," from Japanese animation master Hayao Miyazaki, was a huge hit in his home country, but an English-language adaptation did only a modest \$5.5 million in the United States last fall. The animated-feature Oscar seemed more likely to go to one of the Hollywood films, like the \$100-million-plus hits "Ice Age" or "Lilo & Stitch."

For a change, Oscar organizers moved the show along swiftly, bringing it in at just over its scheduled 3½-hour time. Some past Oscar shows, including last year's, topped four hours.

GOLF

ORLANDO, Fla. — So sick that he frequently ducked into the bushes and dropped to his knees, Tiger Woods still looked as dominant as ever Sunday, shooting a 4-under 68 to win the Bay Hill Invitational by 11 strokes, the fourth time in his career he has won by double digits.

Woods finished at 19-under 269 and became the first player since Gene Sarazen in the Miami Open (1926-30) to

win the same event four straight times.

Brad Faxon missed a 6-foot par putt on the 18th hole that cost him \$189,000. He had a 74 and dropped into a four-way tie for second with Kirk Triplett (70), Kenny Perry (71) and Stewart Cink (72).

PHOENIX — Se Ri Pak beat Annika Sorenstam with a pair of front-nine ea-

gles and finished with an 8-under 64 Sunday to win the Safeway Ping by a shot over Grace Park.

Sorenstam, meanwhile, struggled with her wedges and putter all day and was never in contention on the back nine. She finished with a 1-under 71, four shots back.

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. — Australian

Rodger Davis shot a 3-under-par 68 to win the Toshiba Senior Classic on Sunday by four strokes, his first victory in the United States.

SKIING

LAKE PLACID, N.Y. — Bode Miller edged Erik Schlopy to win his second straight slalom title at the U.S. Alpine National Championships on Sunday.

Continued on Page 13

Moore's anti-war rant is loudest protest at Oscars

From wire reports

LOS ANGELES — Michael Moore criticized President Bush and the U.S.-led war in Iraq during his acceptance speech at Sunday's Academy Awards, drawing a partial standing ovation and some jeers from Hollywood's elite.

The documentary maker won his first Oscar for "Bowling for Columbine," but he brought the other nominees on stage with him in what he called a show of solidarity for non-fiction during these "fictitious times."

"We live in the time where we have fictitious election results that elect a fictitious president," Moore said. "We live in a time where we have a man who's sending us to war for fictitious reasons, whether it's the fiction of duct tape or the fiction of orange alerts."

"We are against the war, Mr. Bush. Shame on you, Mr. Bush, shame on you," he shouted, before music chimed in signaling the end of his time on the stage.

The reaction from the audience almost drowned out Moore's comments, with half the crowd booing and the other half clapping. The camera panned to the reaction of several attendees, including best actor nominee Adrien Brody (with a stunned-looking Chad Lowe in the background), a smiling Lou Gossett Jr. and Martin Scorsese, who looked as if he were on the brink of clapping. Harrison Ford was seen smiling, while Denzel Washington looked less enthused as he thoughtfully pulled at his beard.

Afterward, host Steve Martin tried to restore levity.

"It was so sweet backstage, you should have seen it," Martin joked. "The Teamsters were helping Michael Moore into the trunk of his limo."

"Bowling for Columbine" was Moore's exploration of gun violence in America. The title refers to the fact that gunmen Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold went bowling before they opened fire at Columbine High School in Colorado, killing 12 students and a teacher before turning the guns on themselves.

Asked backstage why he made the remarks, Moore answered: "I'm an American."

"Is that all?" a reporter asked.

"Oh, that's a lot," Moore responded.

He dismissed the jeers he received, telling reporters: "Don't report that there was a split decision in the hall because five loud people booed."

The rotund, scruffy-bearded activist from Flint, Mich., also directed the 1989 documentary "Roger & Me," in which he pursued former General Motors Corp. boss Roger Smith to confront him about the collapse of the auto industry in Moore's hometown.

He's also the author of the best-selling book "Stupid White Men ... And Other Sorry Excuses for the State of the Nation," which criticizes American politicians for favoring corporate wealth over public well-being.

Scattered appeals for peace and grim reports from the U.S.-led war in Iraq added a sober contrast to Hollywood's traditional night of glitzy self-glorification.

"In light of all the troubles in this world, I wish us all peace," Chris Cooper said during his acceptance speech for best supporting actor for "Adaptation."

Cooper was among several nominees, including Meryl Streep and Martin Scorsese, who wore dove peace pins on their formal wear as a silent statement about the war.

Faces 'n' places

Country star's home slow to sell

The boyhood home of country music star Dwight Yoakum has been on the market a month, and Kentucky tourism officials are surprised that it's not sold yet.

"I could see a country music lover making a good income supplement, buying the house and opening it to fans," said Fred James, spokesman for the Kentucky Tourism Cabinet. "It has appeal, no question about it."

List price for the single-story house is \$89,500. According to a local advertisement, the house has three bedrooms and two bathrooms. It's completely remodeled, with new carpet.

Yoakum lived in the house only briefly as an infant, before his parents moved to Columbus, Ohio. He returned often, though, to spend weekends with his grandparents, Luther and Earlene Tibbs, said country music promoter Billie Jean Osborne.

Lots of fans drive by the house, said Trudy Hunter, whose son Randy Hunter, owns the property in eastern Kentucky.

"You can tell who his fans are," she said. "They slow down real slow looking at the house. Then they stop, get out and take pictures. There are people from all over the country who come."

Presidential plane to go on display

A Boeing 707 airliner that served as Air Force One for seven U.S. presidents should be on display sometime next year at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum.

Presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Clinton, and George W. Bush used the plane.

The Air Force gave the plane to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation in 2001 after its last presidential flight that July.

The plane was on view for a private ceremony Friday to mark the start of the lengthy process of getting it ready at its new home, about 40 miles northwest of Los Angeles. It will have to be taken apart, transported in pieces and reassembled at the library.

President Reagan logged 631,640 miles on the plane, almost 400,000 more than its second most frequent flier, President Carter.

Reagan flew in the plane to key meetings with then Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. One of them was the June 11, 1987, meeting in Berlin, when Reagan challenged Gorbachev to "tear down this wall."

Mark Burson, executive director of the Reagan Foundation, said the aircraft "served as nothing short of a presidential partner."

From The Associated Press

EAST Butler 79, Louisville 71

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — A team of blue-collar kids with crew cuts from a tiny Indiana school beat a powerhouse in the big tournament.

Sound vaguely familiar? Darnell Archey's brilliant shooting and Brandon Miller's deft ball-handling Sunday swept 12th-seeded Butler into the round of 16 for the first time with a 79-71 stunner over Rick Pitino and Louisville in the East Regional.

The Horizon League team that plays in the gym where the ultimate underdog movie, "Hoosiers", was filmed is writing a poignant script of its own with upsets of No. 5 Mississippi State and the fourth-seeded Cardinals (26-6).

Next, the Bulldogs (27-5) meet top-seeded Oklahoma on Friday in Albany, N.Y.

Archey shot 8-for-9 on three-pointers — hitting all six in the second half — and tied his career high with 26 points to end Pitino's return to the NCAA tournament.

Butler, with an enrollment of about 4,000 — less than a fifth of Louisville's — made 14 of 22 three-pointers, including 9-for-13 in the second half, to erase an early 15-point deficit.

Reece Gaines scored 22 of his 26 points in the second half for Louisville.

Auburn 68, Wake Forest 62

TAMPA, Fla. — Cliff Ellis can sing it proud. His Auburn Tigers really do belong in the NCAA tournament. Feeding off their underdog status one more time, the team that many felt shouldn't have been invited to the tourney stunned second-seeded Wake Forest.

Marquis Daniels led the way, returning from a five-minute spell on the bench in foul trouble to score seven of his 18 points in the final four minutes. Reserve Lewis Monroe scored Auburn's last four points from the foul line to finish with 12.

The 10th-seeded Tigers (22-11) advanced to the round of 16 for the second time in five seasons under Ellis, a musician who's recorded several CDs that the coach likes to play in the locker room and on the team bus.

Auburn will face third-seeded Syracuse in the regional semifinals.

Freshman Justin Gray led Wake Forest (25-6) with a career-high 26 points. But the Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season champions were unable to overcome another subpar performance by Josh Howard, the ACC player of the year. He had 14 points and a team-high seven turnovers.

Syracuse 68, Oklahoma State 56

BOSTON — Never count out Carmelo Anthony and Syracuse's other freshmen.

NCAA

And don't write off the Big East, either. The conference remained unbeaten in the NCAA tournament when Syracuse overcame an awful start to advance to the regional semifinals.

Third-seeded Syracuse (26-5) will be joined in the round of 16 by three other teams from the Big East, 8-0 in the tournament. The conference received only four bids to the NCAA, which excluded one of its division winners, Boston College.

No. 6 Oklahoma State (22-10) rushed to a 14-2 lead, running after nearly every miss by the Orangemen. But Anthony, Gerry McNamara and Billy Edelin, all freshmen, brought Syracuse back.

Edelin scored 20 points, and McNamara finished with 14 despite missing nearly six minutes to have a wound bandaged above his nose.

Anthony, perhaps the nation's top freshman, had 13.

SOUTH Texas 77, Purdue 67

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Triple-threat T.J. Ford and his Texas teammates are going home — to keep playing in the NCAA tournament, that is.

Considered by some to be the best guard in college basketball, Ford scored 21 points and added nine rebounds and eight assists.

Now, he and the top-seeded Longhorns (24-6) can take their traveling party back to Texas. They're headed to San Antonio, where they'll take on fifth-seeded Connecticut on Friday at the Alamodome.

James Thomas contributed 11 points and 12 rebounds and Royal Ivey had 14 points as Texas reached the round of 16 for the second straight year, a first for the program.

Willie Deane scored 13 points for ninth-seeded Purdue (19-11), which fell short of the round of 16 for the fourth time in six seasons.

Maryland 77, Xavier 64

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — No need to beat the buzzer this time.

Maryland jumped ahead of Xavier right from the start.

The defending national champion Terrapins, who got a game-winning three-pointer from Drew Nicholas in the most exciting finish of the first round, shut down David West early and beat the Musketeers to reach the round of 16 for the third straight year.

Nicholas and Ryan Randle scored 17 points apiece for sixth-seeded Maryland (21-9).

West, the three-time Atlantic 10 player of the year, finished with 22 points and nine rebounds for No. 3 seed Xavier (26-6), but most of it came way too late.

Michigan State 68, Florida 46

TAMPA, Fla. — Michigan State, stung and shocked when Anthony Roberson chose Florida over the home-state Spartans, held the freshman guard scoreless as part of a stunningly easy victory over the Gators.

Getting playing time that might have otherwise gone to Roberson, freshman guard Maurice Ager scored 16 points to help the seventh-seeded Spartans (21-12) win in a rematch of the 2000 title game, also a Michigan State victory.

Tom Izzo's team advanced to play defending champion Maryland in the South Regional semifinals next week in San Antonio.

The second-seeded Gators (25-8) failed to get past the first weekend of the tournament for the third straight year — and failed to break 50 points for the first time in coach Billy Donovan's seven years. David Lee finished with 16 points and four rebounds.

MIDWEST Kentucky 74, Utah 54

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Keith Bogans and Marquis Es-till scored 18 points apiece and top-seeded Kentucky cruised into the round of 16 for the ninth time in 11 years.

Kentucky (31-3) stretched its winning streak to 25 games, a run sparked by an 18-point loss to rival Louisville on Dec. 28.

It wasn't a shock at all that No. 9 Utah (25-8) had its season end at the hands of Kentucky. The teams were meeting in the tournament for the fifth time in 11 years — the Wildcats have won each time, including a victory in the 1998 national championship game.

Kentucky advanced to meet Wisconsin in the regional semifinals at Minneapolis on Thursday. The Wildcats were knocked out in the round of 16 the past two years, but it will take a major upset by the Badgers to make it three in a row.

Marc Jackson led Utah with 19 points.

Pittsburgh 74, Indiana 52

BOSTON — Pittsburgh's defense put the Panthers in the round of 16 for the second consecutive year and ended Indiana's hopes of back-to-back trips to the NCAA title game.

Jaron Brown scored 20 points, and Brandin Knight added 17 points, seven assists and five steals for second-seeded Pittsburgh (28-4), which has won 11 straight. The Panthers will play No. 3 Marquette in Minneapolis on Thursday.

George Leach scored 15 points for the seventh-seeded Hoosiers (21-13), who lost to Maryland in the championship game last year.

From The Associated Press

Continued from Page 12

Miller — who won the Super G title last week on Whiteface Mountain — finished the two runs in 2 minutes, 6.59 seconds, fighting off blustery winds, fog and deteriorating snow.

Schlopy was 0.73 behind, followed by Jesse Marshall, Chip Knight and James Cochran.

Kristina Koznick won the women's slalom with a combined time of 2:07.56, more than two seconds ahead of Katharine Hitchcock. Sarah Schleper finished third, followed by Jessica Kelley and Lauren Ross.

MISSOULA, Mont. — Olympic silver medalist Travis Mayer kept his turns tight Sunday to win his first national title in dual moguls at the U.S. Freestyle Championships.

Mayer, a Cornell student from Steamboat Springs, Colo., edged defending national champion Toby Dawson by three points to win with 19. Mike Friedberg of Boulder, Colo., placed third.

TENNIS

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. — Todd Martin beat Andy Roddick 7-6 (3) 6-4 Sunday at the Nasdaq-100 Open.

With the victory, Martin advanced to the fourth round at Key Biscayne for only the second time in his 11-year career. At 32, he had won just one match this year coming into the tournament, dropping his ranking out of the top 100 for the first time since 1992.

SOCCER

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Brian McBride had a pair of assists in his return to Columbus as the Crew beat Panama's

Sports in brief continued

Arabe Unido 3-0 Sunday and advanced to the quarterfinals of the CONCACAF Champions Cup.

McBride had been loaned to Everton of England's Premier League and scored four goals in eight games there. He cut short his stay by one game to play for Columbus on Sunday and missed Everton's 2-1 loss earlier in the day to Arsenal, the Premier League leader.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

NEW YORK — Marist right-hander Chuck Bechtel threw the first nine-inning no-hitter in school history Sunday, leading the Red Foxes to a 14-0 victory over Manhattan.

Bechtel, a fifth-year senior, struck out five, walked three and faced 29 batters — two over the minimum — and didn't allow a runner to reach second base.

AUTO RACING

BRISTOL, Tenn. — Kurt Busch, a runner-up three times this season, earned his first win of the year Sunday and defended his Food City 500 title by gambling on pit strategy and avoiding all but one of the 17 cautions at Bristol Motor Speedway.

Coming off last week's thrilling door-to-door battle with Ricky Craven that he lost, Busch had little competition as his Ford Taurus led the final 96 laps and easily held off Roush Racing teammate Matt Kenseth by .390 seconds.

Because of 17 cautions — three short of the race record — the long green-flag runs were rare. When competition stayed clean long enough for 129 uninterrupted laps, cars had to start ducking off the track for pit stops.

Those who had enough fuel kept running, hoping and praying for a caution, while the drivers who had to stop fell a lap behind the leaders.

AVONDALE, Arizona — Tony Kanaan and Helio Castoneves were at it again, racing wheel to wheel just as they used to do in go-karts in their native Brazil.

Only this time, there was more at stake — the \$100,000 waiting the winner of the season's second IndyCar race.

Kanaan, the fifth driver in series history to earn consecutive pole positions, led the Purex Dial Indy 200 for the final 41 laps to win an Indy Racing League race Sunday in his third start.

MONTERREY, Mexico — Paul Tracy made it two-for-two this season, racing to an easy win Sunday in the CART Monterrey Grand Prix.

Tracy, by far off to the best start of his 13-year Champ Car career, held off Michel Jourdain Jr. for the same 1-2 finish as the season-opener last month in St. Petersburg, Fla.

SPEEDSKATING

WARSAW, Poland — Apolo Anton Ohno finished second to South Korea's Ahn Hyun-soo in the 3,000 meters Sunday at the short track speedskating World Championships.

Ahn controlled the race throughout

and finished in 4 minutes, 58.297 seconds. Ohno was next in 4:58.699, followed by South Korea's Song Suk-woo.

China's Li Jiajun won the women's 1,000 in 1:28.391, ahead of Canada's Jean-Francois Monette and South Korea's Lee Seung-jae.

MARATHON

WASHINGTON — Paul Rades and Kevin Kozlowski crossed the finish line together Sunday to win The Unofficial Washington DC Marathon — a race in which no streets were closed and runners stopped for red lights.

The real race was canceled Wednesday, with organizers citing the war in Iraq and security concerns.

About 500 people ran the 26.2 miles on the streets and sidewalks of the nation's capital. More than 6,800 runners from 50 states and 14 countries had registered for the official race, which was revived last year after a 19-year absence.

CRICKET

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Australia routed India on Sunday to win cricket's World Cup for an unprecedented third time.

The Aussies went unbeaten in the tournament and became the first team since the West Indies in 1979 to capture consecutive titles.

Australia previously won the sport's quadrennial showpiece in 1987 and 1999.

Australia won by 125 runs and recorded its 17th consecutive one-day victory. Ricky Ponting's unbeaten 140 off 121 balls was the highest score in a World Cup final.

From The Associated Press

NHL

Stars 3, Blues 1

DALLAS — Brenden Morrow scored a pair of first-period goals and Marty Turco had to make only 12 saves in his return from an 18-game absence Sunday as Dallas wrapped up the Pacific Division title with a 3-1 victory over St. Louis.

The Stars now have 100 points, eliminating the second-place Anaheim Mighty Ducks from the division race and clinching Dallas' fourth Pacific crown in the past five seasons.

Sergei Zubov added a power-play goal for the Stars, who had been in a 1-3-0-1 slump and were 7-6-3-2 behind reserve goaltenders Ron Tugnutt and Corey Hirsch during Turco's absence because of injury.

Penguins 1, Blackhawks 1

CHICAGO — Eric Meloche scored in the first period but Pittsburgh extended its winless streak to 16 games with a tie against Chicago.

The Penguins are 0-14-2 during their streak, which is two short of the team record.

Eric Daze scored a first-period goal for Chicago, which is winless in its past three games (0-2-1). The Blackhawks have won just six of their past 29 games (6-19-2-2).

Wild 4, Red Wings 0

ST. PAUL, Minn. — The Wild clinched the first playoff appearance in their 3-year history as Matt Johnson scored just 21 seconds into the game to spark a victory over Detroit.

Dwayne Roloson had 33 saves for his fourth shutout of the season as Minnesota extended its winning streak to three games. Detroit had its six-game winning streak snapped.

Minnesota becomes only the second expansion team in the past 30 years to advance to the NHL playoffs in its third season of existence. The San Jose Sharks did it in 1994, and the Florida Panthers matched the feat in 1996, when they advanced to Stanley Cup finals.

Canucks 6, Capitals 0

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Todd Bertuzzi scored his NHL-best 44th and 45th goals on the power play, and rookie Alex Auld stopped 14 shots for his first career shutout as Vancouver beat Washington.

Bertuzzi also assisted on Markus Naslund's 44th goal as Vancouver converted five of 10 power plays. Brent Sopel and Matt Cooke also scored on the power play for the Canucks, who won consecutive games for the first time in almost a month.

Auld, 22, was a surprise starter after being recalled from AHL Manitoba earlier in the day. He played ahead of regular backup Peter Skudra after top goalie Dan Cloutier experienced soreness in the right knee that recently forced him to miss 10 games.

Oilers 3, Predators 2 (OT)

EDMONTON, Alberta — Cory Cross scored 2:12 into overtime to give Edmonton the victory over Nashville.

Cross knocked in Radek Dvorak's rebound on a power play, the first goal of the season for the defenseman acquired from New York at the trade deadline.

Todd Marchant and Ethan Moreau also scored for the Oilers, who are unbeaten in their past five games and in eighth place in the West with 85 points — three behind Anaheim.

Scott Hartnell and Greg Johnson scored for the Predators, who are winless in their past eight.

From The Associated Press

Scores/standings

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	42	28	.600	—
Philadelphia	41	28	.594	½
Boston	38	32	.543	4
Orlando	37	33	.529	5
Washington	32	37	.464	9½
New York	31	39	.443	11
Miami	22	48	.314	20

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	44	25	.638	—
Indiana	41	29	.586	3½
New Orleans	40	31	.563	5
Milwaukee	34	36	.486	10½
Atlanta	29	42	.408	16
Chicago	25	46	.352	20
Toronto	21	47	.309	22½
Cleveland	13	56	.188	31

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Dallas	52	17	.754	—
San Antonio	49	20	.710	3
Minnesota	45	26	.634	8
Utah	40	29	.580	12
Houston	36	33	.522	16
Memphis	25	44	.362	27
Denver	15	55	.214	37½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Sacramento	50	21	.704	—
Portland	44	25	.638	5
L.A. Lakers	39	30	.565	10
Phoenix	36	33	.522	13
Golden State	34	36	.486	15½
Seattle	32	36	.471	16½
L.A. Clippers	22	47	.319	27

Sunday's games

San Antonio 98, L.A. Lakers 89
Philadelphia 112, Toronto 95
Orlando 96, Miami 74
Detroit 105, Chicago 82
Cleveland 93, New Jersey 88

Sacramento 109, Houston 108
Golden State 113, Washington 107

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
x-New Jersey	43	20	6	5	97	196	155
x-Philadelphia	39	20	11	4	93	179	157
N.Y. Islanders	33	30	10	2	78	205	207
N.Y. Rangers	31	33	9	3	74	196	214
Pittsburgh	25	41	6	5	61	179	238

Northeast Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
y-Ottawa	48	20	7	1	104	245	172
x-Toronto	40	26	6	3	89	216	191
Boston	34	29	8	4	80	226	219
Montreal	28	32	8	8	72	191	217
Buffalo	22	35	9	8	61	166	197

Southeast Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	34	23	13	5	86	205	193
Washington	35	28	8	5	83	205	203
Florida	23	31	12	9	67	166	218
Atlanta	26	37	6	5	63	199	263
Carolina	22	37	10	6	60	162	216

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Central Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
x-Detroit	44	19	9	3	100	243	187
x-St. Louis	39	21	9	6	93	235	197
Nashville	27	30	12	6	72	178	190
Chicago	27	32	11	5	70	182	199
Columbus	26	38	7	3	62	194	236

Northwest Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
x-Vancouver	43	20	12	1	99	247	194
x-Colorado	37	18	12	7	93	222	176
x-Minnesota	39	25	10	1	89	186	162
Edmonton	34	25	8	9	85	210	211
Calgary	25	34	12	4	66	170	214

Pacific Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
y-Dallas	41	17	15	3	100	229	160
Anaheim	37	26	9	5	88	189	185
Phoenix	30	31	9	4	73	188	202
Los Angeles	30	34	6	5	71	188	202
San Jose	27	34	6	8	68	198	220

Spurs 98, Lakers 89

SAN ANTONIO — Tim Duncan had 27 points and Tony Parker scored 16 of his 18 points in the second half as San Antonio beat Los Angeles 98-89 Sunday for a four-game regular-season sweep of the Lakers.

The Spurs last swept Los Angeles during the 1993-94 season.

San Antonio took control by making 10 of 15 shots in the third quarter. The Spurs led by as many as 19 points in the quarter as Los Angeles shot 6-for-31.

Tony Parker had eight points on 3-for-3 shooting in the period, then added eight free throws in the fourth.

Shaquille O'Neal, who had 32 points and 12 rebounds, had a basket and a three-point play that closed the Lakers to 71-61 with 10 minutes remaining. But Manu Ginobili countered eight points to help the Spurs maintain a double-digit advantage.

Kobe Bryant also had 31 points for the Lakers.

Warriors 113, Wizards 107

OAKLAND, Calif. — Gilbert Arenas scored a career-high 41 points, and Antawn Jamison added 37 points and 11 rebounds as Golden State beat Washington to spoil Michael Jordan's last game in Oakland.

Jordan missed two shots down the stretch, committed a turnover with 22 seconds left and was held scoreless on 0-for-4 shooting in the fourth quarter, finishing with 24 points and five rebounds before a sellout crowd of 20,149.

The Wizards dropped 1½ games behind idle Milwaukee for the eighth and final playoff spot in the East. Golden State, looking to make the postseason

NBA

for the first time in nine years, pulled within 2½ games of Houston and Phoenix for the last spot in the West.

76ers 112, Raptors 95

TORONTO — Allen Iverson scored 32 points as Philadelphia ended a two-game losing streak with a victory over Toronto.

Iverson, the league's No. 3 scorer, recovered from two sub-par games — he had just five points in Thursday's loss to Detroit and went 9-for-27 from the field in Friday's loss to Atlanta — to go 14-for-25 from the field. He added seven assists and five steals.

Vince Carter had 22 points on 10-for-13 shooting for the lottery-bound Raptors, who have lost eight of nine. Eric Snow added 11 points and 11 assists for the Sixers.

Magic 96, Heat 74

MIAMI — Tracy McGrady made a career-high seven three-pointers and scored 37 points as Orlando beat Miami for its fourth consecutive victory.

McGrady scored 21 in the first quarter and finished 15-for-27 from the field to go along with seven rebounds and five assists, helping the Magic to their eighth victory in 11 games.

McGrady played only 32 minutes, sitting out the entire fourth quarter. Gordon Giricek and Jacque Vaughn each scored 13 for the Magic.

Cavaliers 93, Nets 88

CLEVELAND — Zydrunas Ilgauskas scored 29 points to help Cleveland over-

Two points for a win, one point for a tie and overtime loss.
x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Sunday's games

Pittsburgh 1, Chicago 1, tie
Dallas 3, St. Louis 1
Minnesota 4, Detroit 0
Vancouver 6, Washington 0
Edmonton 3, Nashville 2, OT

NCAA Tournament

EAST REGIONAL
Second Round

Sunday

At The Fleet Center

Boston

Syracuse 68, Oklahoma State 56

At St. Pete Times Forum

Tampa, Fla.

Auburn 68, Wake Forest 62

At Birmingham-Jefferson

Civic Center

Birmingham, Ala.

Butler 79, Louisville 71

SOUTH REGIONAL
Second Round

Sunday

At The Gaylord Entertainment Center

Nashville, Tenn.

Maryland 77, Xavier 64

At Birmingham-Jefferson

Civic Center

Birmingham, Ala.

Texas 77, Purdue 67

At St. Pete Times Forum

Tampa, Fla.

Michigan State 68, Florida 46

MIDWEST REGIONAL
Second Round

Sunday

At The Fleet Center

Boston

Pittsburgh 74, Indiana 52

At The Gaylord Entertainment Center

Nashville, Tenn.

Kentucky 74, Utah 54

From The Associated Press

come an early 13-point deficit to beat New Jersey.

Ilgauskas shot 13-for-21 as Cleveland snapped a three-game losing streak and won for just the third time in 19 games — with two of those victories coming against New Jersey.

Jason Kidd scored 21 points to lead the Nets, but committed a key turnover and missed a free throw in the final 16 seconds.

Pistons 105, Bulls 82

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Richard Hamilton scored 26 points and Ben Wallace pulled down 20 rebounds as Detroit improved to 3-0 against Chicago this season.

The victory increased Detroit's Central Division lead to 3½ games over Indiana. Chauncey Billups added 16 points for the Pistons, while Cliff Robinson and Mehmet Okur had 13 each.

Eddy Curry led Chicago with 18 and Jamal Crawford added 17.

Jalen Rose had six on 3-for-15 shooting, just his second single-digit scoring effort in 101 games with the Bulls.

Kings 109, Rockets 108

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Chris Webber scored 24 points, and Steve Francis missed a long three-pointer at the buzzer as Sacramento beat Houston.

Francis had 38 points and nine assists in a virtuoso performance. Webber made two big shots in the closing minutes, but he missed two free throws with 5.1 seconds remaining — almost allowing the Rockets to steal a victory in the NBA's toughest road arena.

Mike Bibby scored 23 points and Peja Stojakovic had 21 as the Kings won their fourth straight game and their 50th of the season.

From The Associated Press